

Department of Health  
FOIA Office  
4815 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205

**RECEIVED****OCT 02 2019****LEGAL DIVISION**

October 2, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Northeastern University's School of Social Justice and Health Equity is interested in the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program ("PDMP"). Specifically, we want to learn more about law enforcement access to the database, the use of an algorithm that produces a risk score to analyze its contents, and the data access and retention rules governing the system. We understand the algorithm was produced by the corporation Appriss.

In order to permit the public to understand how the Arkansas Department of Health is using the PDMP and how it impacts public health and civil liberties in Arkansas, Northeastern University's Health in Justice Action Lab is making this request under Arkansas Freedom of Information Act § 25-19-101 et seq. for the following records:

1. Any and all memoranda of understanding between the Arkansas Department of Health and any outside entity regarding the PDMP;
2. Any and all records including information about the algorithm that determines risk scores in the PDMP, including but not limited to its source code, developer documentation, and operator manuals (e.g. Narx Score, Overdose Risk Score);
3. Any and all research, technical reports, or internal audits that evaluate the Appriss risk assessment tool's effectiveness or performance;
4. Any and all records of de-identified red flag algorithm outputs (e.g. provider red flag, pharmacy red flag, 40 MED red flag) and patient behavioral red flags (e.g., anxious patient demeanor, distance between prescriber and dispenser) with prescriber/dispenser training documentation on how to address the red flags; and
5. Any record showing the number of patients in the PDMP by quarter and year (2006-present);

Because this request involves a matter of public concern and because it is made on behalf of a nonprofit organization, we ask that you waive any fees. If you decide not to waive fees, we request that you permit us to examine, at our election, the responsive documents before deciding which portions to transmit. We prefer the documents in electronic format.

Should you determine that some portion of the documents request are exempt from disclosure, please release any reasonably segregable portions that are not exempt. In addition, please note the applicable statutory exemption and explain why it applies to the redacted portions.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

I look forward to receiving your response to this request within ten days as requested by the statute.

Sincerely,

Sarah Seymour

Filed via MuckRock.com

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For mailed responses, please address (see note):

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